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INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE: PROGRESS REPORT AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1994-1996

SUMMARY

Annual progress reports to the Executive Board on the International Child Development Centre (ICDC) in Florence, Italy, were made for each year of the initial agreement, from 1988 to 1990 (see E/ICEF/1989/L.9, E/ICEF/1990/L.9 and E/ICEF/1991/L.9 and Corr.1). Following the completion of the initial three-year phase, the Board shifted reporting to a triennial basis. Accordingly, chapter I of the present report summarizes work carried out by the Centre during the period 1991-1993, the second three-year phase of its activities. It discusses the progress made in each of the three main ICDC programme areas: economic policies and mobilization of resources for children; the rights of the child; and the urban child. The report reviews information, library and documentation activities; provides details of publications and dissemination of results; and describes the new children's rights information base. The Centre's organization and management also are considered, including updates on staffing, financing and the management review process.

Chapter II of the present document contains proposals for activities to be undertaken during the next triennium (1994-1996). It discusses medium-term planning for the Centre as well as projected trends and activities in the major programme areas. A new programme is presented relating to issues of "decentralization, participation and local governance", including an assessment of the process of decentralizing national programmes of action for children.

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board authorize a three-year extension for the Centre for the period 1994-1996. A total allocation of $9.6 million in supplementary funding is proposed, of which the Government of Italy has pledged 10.5 billion lire (approximately $6.3 million)

for the Centre's core activities, with the remainder to be sought from other donors for specific activities. The Executive Director further recommends that the maintenance and basic staff of the Centre continue to be fully funded from supplementary funds and that general resources be used by the Centre only for specific Board-approved actions and where other UNICEF offices request the Centre to undertake certain aspects of these actions on their behalf.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The UNICEF International Child Development Centre (ICDC), also referred to as the Innocenti Centre, was established in Florence, Italy, in September 1988. The Centre undertakes and promotes policy analysis and applied research, provides a forum for international professional exchange of experiences and disseminates ideas and research findings resulting from its activities. On a highly selective basis, the Centre also provides training and capacity-building opportunities for UNICEF staff and professionals in other institutions with which UNICEF cooperates. The background, basic objectives, strategies and methods of work, as well as the financial and administrative arrangements for the Centre, were presented in some detail to the 1988 Executive Board (see E/ICEF/1988/L.9 and Add.1). Annual progress reports were submitted to the 1989, 1990 and 1991 Executive Boards (E/ICEF/1989/L.9, E/ICEF/1990/L.9 and E/ICEF/1991/L.9 and Corr.1, respectively), together with a separate document (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.29 and Corr.1) proposing activities for the 1991-1993 programme cycle. Chapter I of the present document examines the activities carried out during the second three-year phase (1991-1993).

2. The Government of Italy has pledged a sum of 3.5 billion lire (approximately $2.1 million) per year for the next three-year phase (1994-1996). It is anticipated that long-term contributions from the Government will continue to be adequate to cover the cost of the basic staff and regular operating expenses of the Centre. The Executive Director proposes that the Centre continue to seek a gradual diversification of its financing, building on complementary funding already provided by several other sources, including the Governments of Finland and Sweden. The contribution of the Government of Italy will be used basically to cover the core costs of the Centre, including the regular UNICEF staff based there, while additional contributions from other donors, as well as cost-sharing arrangements within and outside UNICEF, will be sought to finance specific activities. As described in chapter II of the present document, a total allocation for 1994-1996 of $9.6 million is proposed, of which $6.3 million (at the January 1994 exchange rate) will be provided by the Government of Italy, in addition to possible contributions from the Government for specific activities.

I. PROGRESS REPORT, 1991-1993

A. Major programme areas

3. Work during the 1991-1993 period was concentrated in three major programme areas: (a) economic policies and the mobilization of resources for children; (b) the rights of the child; and (c) the urban child.

Economic policies and the mobilization of resources for children

4. This programme focuses on a number of key issues of economic and social policy relating to the needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups that are often neglected in the "mainstream" literature on development. Research, advocacy and capacity-building activities have been carried out in five project

areas: structural adjustment and human development in sub-Saharan Africa; child poverty and deprivation in industrialized countries; financing of social services during the 1980s; social problems and policies in Central and Eastern Europe; and monitoring of social indicators and policies in Central and Eastern Europe.

Structural adjustment and human development in sub-Saharan Africa

5. Work on this topic has been undertaken in collaboration with UNICEF headquarters, the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), the West and Central Africa Regional Office and several country offices. Case studies for Burkina Faso, Kenya, the Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were disseminated widely in the Innocenti Occasional Paper series and incorporated in the book Africa's Recovery in the 1990s: From Stagnation and Adjustment to Human Development (Macmillan, London, 1992). The book establishes a strong correlation between the stagnation and even decline of child welfare in African nations on the one hand, and overdependence on primary commodities, narrow industrial structures, insecure food production and weak human resource bases on the other. It proposes a number of long- and short-term strategies centred on greater access to basic services and inputs, increased attention to human resource development, land redistribution, reinforced production structures and greater export and import differentiation.

6. Research findings also were presented at a conference held in Florence in November 1992 which brought together some 70 participants, including high-level policy makers and economists and other social scientists from major universities and international organizations. Presentations made at this seminar and additional papers are collected in the book From Adjustment to Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: Conflict, Controversy, Convergence, Consensus?, scheduled for publication by Macmillan in mid-1994. The research also was used to prepare modules for regional training seminars held in Cotonou, Benin, in April 1993; for a similar seminar held in Lusaka, Zambia, in May 1992; and as background documentation for the International Conference for Assistance to African Children held in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1992. A database of relevant bibliographic reference listings was set up and disseminated in late 1993.

Child poverty and deprivation in industrialized countries

7. Case studies for Hungary, Italy, Portugal, the former Soviet Union, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, published as Occasional Papers, provide an important comparative framework for the study of child poverty in industrialized countries and have proved to be highly successful advocacy tools. The promotion of national case studies was undertaken in Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom in cooperation with the National Committees for UNICEF in those countries. Promotional activities received excellent media coverage, attracted the attention of policy makers and the academic community and generated considerable debate (including in the British Parliament). In 1993, research findings were presented at meetings of the Child Poverty Action Group, United Kingdom, and the Italian National Committee for UNICEF. In addition to country case studies, monographs have been published on government expenditures for children and their families

in advanced industrialized countries; on growth, income distribution and household welfare in industrialized countries since the first oil shock; and on changes in family structure and stability and their impact on child welfare. The bibliographical listing on child poverty, which has expanded steadily during the past three years, has been reproduced in an easily accessible format and has been circulated widely. A book summarizing the research, Child Poverty in Industrialized Countries, will be completed in 1994.

Financing of social services during the 1980s

8. The purpose of this project is to investigate and propose improved policies for financing health, education, nutrition and water supply and sanitation programmes in developing countries. Case studies for Chile, China, Ecuador, Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania were completed and published in the Occasional Paper series. Also published in the same series were monographs on service decentralization, targeting and cost-recovery in education, tax reform and equity, and aid restructuring. In addition, case studies on Burkina Faso, Kenya and Nigeria were completed and policy chapters commissioned. A final review meeting of the project was held at UNICEF headquarters in October 1992 with the support of the Programme Division and the Planning and Coordination Office. This project is viewed as having considerable relevance for a number of UNICEF-supported goals, including the development of more efficient and equitable strategies for financing the national programmes of action (NPAs).

Social problems and policies in Central and Eastern Europe

9. In coordination with the concerned UNICEF offices in New York and Geneva and with the cooperation of several National Committees for UNICEF, ICDC commissioned papers analysing the nature and extent of the emerging social problems, and relevant policy implications, in the transitional economies of Central and Eastern Europe. This research was subsequently incorporated in the 1991 book Children and the Transition to the Market Economy, which has been translated, to facilitate advocacy work, into Bulgarian and Hungarian. In addition, summary versions have been produced in English, French, German, Italian and Russian. Political advocacy has included a high-level international seminar held in Florence in June 1991 to review the economic and social policy reforms under way in Eastern Europe, the "safety nets" that have been put into place and the social impact of these measures.

Monitoring of social indicators and policies in Central and Eastern Europe

10. In view of the historic changes occurring in Central and Eastern Europe and the impact of these changes on children and their families, the programme has invested considerable time in strengthening capacities and developing a network of contacts for a sub-project, initiated in 1992, to monitor social indicators and policies in nine countries in the region: Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and the Ukraine. In each of these countries, a two-person team has been recruited to transmit to Florence data collected through household surveys, vital registration systems and administrative statistics. Using a computer database specifically set up for the project, the Florence team has produced the first

Regional Monitoring Report on Central and Eastern Europe. Two complete analytical reports are planned per year. They will give a clear and comprehensive picture of the evolution of the situation of children and other vulnerable groups in the region, assessing linkages between public policy, welfare conditions and social outcomes. This project represents a low-cost, innovative response to the dearth of timely data and analysis of a wide range of social indicators and policies. It is hoped that the system will be institutionalized eventually in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The first consultative group meeting of the project was held in Florence in February 1993 and the second in December. Also in 1993, information about the project was shared at meetings organized by UNICEF in Budapest and Riga; at a meeting on Eastern Europe of the Luxembourg Income Study; and at the "Bucharest Round-table Conference on Social Change in Eastern Europe", sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme.

Rights of the child

11. The research phase of the project on "the best interests of the child", based on this principle in Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1/ has been completed. Twelve of the papers have been published in a special issue of the International Journal of Law and the Family and will appear shortly as a separate volume published by Oxford University Press. The study covers both legal-conceptual dimensions and practical applications of the "best interests" principle, especially in Africa, Asia and Europe, in very different socio-legal traditions and cultural contexts. It also is anticipated that a separate volume of essays on the best interests of the child in the southern Africa region may emerge from this project. Several of the publications resulting from this initiative are expected to be especially well suited for educational or training purposes, ranging from teaching materials for law faculties to those more useful for programmes for paralegal workers or other practitioners concerned with children's rights. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed particular interest in this study to help guide its review of reports submitted by States parties.

12. A second ICDC project in the area of child rights concerns the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, focusing especially on the reference in Article 4 to the maximum utilization of "available resources". This project is seen both as a research undertaking, intended to enhance the prospects for effective implementation of the Convention, and as a contribution to strengthening the capacity of UNICEF and some of its major allies for work in the area of children's rights. Of particular interest in this regard is the effort to encourage a highly complementary relationship between implementation of the Convention and the work - including resource planning - on the post-Summit NPAs on the goals for children in the 1990s. A paper on this relationship has been published in the International Journal of Children's Rights. In addition to the publications emanating from this project, the principal contributors are participating actively in seminars, professional meetings, training sessions or other events in an effort to ensure that the experience gained and materials produced are shared widely with others concerned with the implementation of the Convention. By mid-1994, it is expected that a total of at least seven Occasional Papers will have been produced, some also likely to appear in journals concerned with human rights or children's rights.

The possibility of producing a book is also being explored, together with a less specialized summary in the popular Innocenti Studies series.

13. Another area of child rights research, thus far less advanced, concerns the intersecting needs and rights of children and women. To address the subject of "Women, Work and Child Care", the Centre - together with the Training Section and the New York-based Consultative Group on Early Child Care and Development - organized the Third Innocenti Global Seminar, held in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 1991. The seminar brought together 35 participants from 23 countries to discuss the changing patterns of women's work and responsibilities and to review a range of alternative social policies and strategies that benefit both working women and their children. The positive response received to the summary report on this seminar, as well as to an Occasional Paper on "Women's Rights and Children's Rights", suggests that efforts may be justified to develop this area of concern, including concentrating attention on the particular problems of the girl child in the new undertaking, described in the next paragraph, concerning child labour.

14. Responding both to needs identified through other activities and studies, including by the Centre's urban child programme and by the UNICEF Basic Services Section at headquarters, the Centre has begun to concentrate a significant portion of its attention under the rights of the child programme on issues of working children. This emphasis has been facilitated by the support received from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), which includes funding for activities relating to child labour in Latin America. Of particular concern is the type of hazardous and exploitative employment of children prohibited by Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related conventions and standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Special attention is being given to the interrelationship between (a) expanding educational opportunities for children, notably in the 6- to-14-year-old age-group and with particular concern, where appropriate, for the girl child's education and (b) eliminating progressively the more damaging and exploitative forms of child labour for this same age-group. These issues were explored at the Fourth Innocenti Global Seminar held in Florence in February 1993, with the close cooperation of the Child Labour Group of ILO. The seminar concluded with specific recommendations for further work in this area, including for ICDC. A summary report is available and has been disseminated widely by both ILO and ICDC. As one of several follow-up activities to that seminar, a workshop on rapid appraisal procedures for work on child labour was organized jointly by UNICEF and ILO and held at ICDC in December 1993.

15. The Convention on the Rights of the Child presents UNICEF, including ICDC, with a new set of challenges in terms of policy work on relevant issues concerning children's rights and well-being in industrialized countries. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is interested especially in pursuing in those countries the effective implementation of Article 2 of the Convention concerning non-discrimination. Accordingly, one area being explored by ICDC concerns the increasingly sensitive subject of children and families of immigrant groups and ethnic minorities. Building on a study commissioned by ICDC concerning problems of gypsy children in Europe, the Centre held a technical workshop of specialists on this subject in Florence in October 1992, and a first publication is available. In cooperation with the Central and

Eastern European Section at UNICEF headquarters, a second phase of this initiative is under consideration. Consultations also have been held with a number of European institutions that may be interested in cooperation in this area, including the Universities of Lisbon, Padua and Paris, the Minority Rights Group in London and the Bernard van Leer Foundation in The Hague. This next phase is likely to include work on a few policy issues facing disadvantaged minority children in Europe, such as poor pre-school development and primary school performance and well-above-average mortality and morbidity rates. An opportunity to undertake a broadening of this project to address problems of children and families of indigenous groups in Mexico and Central America also is being explored in consultation with the Inter-American Indian Institute based in Mexico City.

The urban child

16. This programme has had as its primary objectives documenting the situation of children living in urban poverty, analysing the processes that led to their multiple deprivations and often hazardous living conditions and identifying innovative and preventive programmes for their protection. More specifically, the programme has sought: (a) to broaden information bases on two categories of urban children in especially difficult circumstances - street children and working children - and (b) to identify ways to improve country-level programming and planning and to reorient national policies and institutional commitments to benefit these children. The Centre's urban child team was guided by a consultative group formed by UNICEF staff and experts in urban planning and various social science disciplines from both industrialized and developing countries.

17. In 1991 and 1992 the programme concentrated on completing and analysing comparatively the results of research studies conducted in five countries: Brazil, India, Kenya and the Philippines, representing the "South", and Italy, exemplifying the situation in the "North". The studies were carried out by multidisciplinary local teams in collaboration with influential institutions in each country: the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences in Brazil; the National Planning Commission in India; the University of Nairobi in Kenya; the De La Salle and Ateneo de Manila Research and Policy Centres in the Philippines; and the Istituto degli Innocenti in Italy. A solid knowledge base was built, including more than 1,000 published and unpublished programme-related documents. Efforts were made to disseminate results of the studies as widely as possible: the principal findings of the five case studies were reported by journalists in the Innocenti Studies series which targets non-specialist audiences; the Indian and Brazilian studies were published in the Occasional Paper series; longer versions of most reports were published locally; and each case study became a chapter in the final book which includes the project's main findings. In addition, during 1992 urban and national forums involving policy makers at all levels were organized by individual country teams to review the research and its programmatic implications. The programme helped to build local capacities on problem diagnosis and the formulation of preventive programmes for urban children in difficult circumstances. It has had an impact on the mid-term reviews and future planning cycles of the country programmes of the four developing countries involved.

18. The five country studies pointed to some areas that needed more focused research and programme analysis. During 1991 and 1992 sub-projects were initiated, papers were commissioned and international workshops were held in Florence on the following issues: "The Development of Children from Early Childhood to Adolescence" (a project coordinated by the Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development); "Meeting the Basic Learning Needs of Adolescent Girls/Mothers" (a joint ICDC and German Foundation for International Development initiative); and "Children of Migrants and Immigrants" (a project undertaken with the Istituto degli Innocenti). A widely regarded Innocenti Essay, entitled "Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship", has also emerged from this programme.

19. The culminating event of the research process was the five-day meeting on "Today's Children, Tomorrow's Cities" held at the Centre in October 1992. A joint Istituto degli Innocenti, City of Florence and ICDC undertaking, the meeting assembled mayors, urban planners and policy makers from some 20 cities in the five countries of the study. In addition to a final strategy and action paper, they produced a "Letter from Florence", urging mayors world wide to take up the challenge to guarantee the full citizenship and rights of all children and families. The closing ceremony, which attracted extensive press coverage, was held in the Palazzo Vecchio and included an address by the Queen of Sweden. This high-profile meeting was a tangible way of strengthening global efforts being made by UNICEF and its partners to involve people at every level of Government in support of the goals agreed upon at the World Summit for Children. By targeting the municipal level, the meeting gave recognition to the decentralization process that has now become essential to the realization of national goals. The meeting's documentation and publications also were made available for the July 1993 "global" meeting of mayors in Mexico.

20. During early 1993, in its final phase, the urban child programme gave priority to the completion of the book of main findings, entitled Children in Distress (Gordon and Breach, New York, 1994). The book synthesizes the results of this research effort, draws policy lessons and contains the wide-ranging contributions of a large number of national scholars and activists. Attention is focused on the importance of families and their remarkable strength in the face of enormous obstacles. Gender-related issues, especially the problems faced by female-headed households and the role of women within the community, are given prominence. The book documents the consequences for children and families of such negative trends as rapid urbanization, the pressures of structural adjustment, the breakdown of families, organized crime, violence, insecurity and increasingly scarce public sector resources. It also highlights positive trends, especially democratization, decentralization and pressure for increased citizen participation, thus making the important point that improvements can be made in the situation of urban poor children. These positive trends form the basis for a new programme at the Centre focused on decentralization, participation and local governance.

21. In 1993 preliminary work began on the evolution of this new programme focus, described in paragraphs 50 to 54 below. A conceptual paper on "Case Studies, Policy Analysis and Promotion of Decentralization of the National Programmes of Action" was prepared. In addition, three methodological papers

(on Colombia, North Africa and Viet Nam) were written and a review of the local provision of services for children in Spain was completed.

B. Information and documentation activities

Publications and dissemination

22. During the 1991-1993 period, the Centre produced 80 publications, including seven books (two at press, and one ready to go to press at the time of this writing), as well as various foreign language versions. This brings to a total of 99 the Centre's publications output since 1989. ICDC has introduced a highly successful mainstream series intended for a wide readership (Innocenti Studies), as well as more "popular" versions of material originally released for specialized audiences. These versions complement the Centre's more academic and longest-standing series, Innocenti Occasional Papers. To date, the Centre's books have been published in association with commercial publishers. However, its monographs are now all designed, produced and printed locally, and great care has been taken to develop distinctive graphic formats. A good example is the recent report on The Decline of Infant Mortality in Europe: 1800-1950, published jointly with the Istituto degli Innocenti.

23. Since 1991, ICDC has also applied a scaled sales policy, issuing its first printed Publications Catalogue in 1993. (The Centre's publications also are listed in the new general catalogue of UNICEF Publications.) To reach an academic as well as a more general audience, the Centre has built up its own core and specialized mailing lists. Its publications also are systematically publicized in First Call for Children. Dissemination remains an ongoing challenge for ICDC and has been tackled on many fronts, including policy and media seminars, public lectures and other presentations by ICDC staff, as detailed elsewhere in this report.

Library and documentation services

24. During the period under review, the Centre's library has been established firmly as an effective support service for the Centre's research staff and visiting professionals. Although essentially a reference library that also manages "specialist" programme collections, the library took a major step forward in 1992 by setting up on-line connections with a number of external databases, including OCLC (the world's largest library information network) and JANET (the British on-line service providing access to almost all university libraries in the United Kingdom). Through a variety of "hosts" and networks, some 580 commercial databases and 12,000 academic and public library catalogues can now be consulted through on-line connections, allowing access to an estimated 290 million records. In addition to on-line services, the library has set up a CD-ROM service to enhance its on-site search capacity; thus it is able to conduct extensive bibliographic searches and, importantly, ensure document delivery through inter-library loans. The library now has a total of 2,885 records in its database (up from 1,100 in 1991) and issues a Current Awareness Bulletin every two months, which is shared with other UNICEF libraries. It also has instituted publication exchanges with over 59 academic and other organizations.

Children's rights information base

25. Information is widely accepted as the single most powerful and effective tool in promoting and upholding human rights, including the rights of children. Although organized processing and exchange of information has reached a peak of sophistication in many fields, reliable and relevant information on children's needs and their rights is not being made available in a readily accessible and useful form to those who can put this knowledge to work for children. Responding to specific requests - including from the Committee on the Rights of the Child - the Centre put forward a proposal in 1992 aimed at developing an effective, user-oriented, international children's rights information base ("Childright"), involving regional collaborating centres. Through several international meetings (Geneva, November 1992; Florence, March 1993; and Geneva, October 1993), the need for an international children's rights information network has been discussed and recognized by key governmental and non-governmental members of the children's rights community as well as by members of the Committee. Indeed, the amount of information needed to advance children's rights on all fronts is far too vast for any one organization, or even a few, to manage alone. The issues therefore are the following: how to know who is doing what and where; how to know what information already exists; how to share this information; and how to work out a division of labour in which all benefit through this cooperation.

26. There has been widespread agreement that surveys must be conducted to determine what would constitute internationally accepted information-handling tools in the area of children's rights. The Centre has contributed to this process (a) by commissioning a survey to assess what information-handling capacity already exists within UNICEF and other international organizations; and (b) by undertaking to coordinate a survey of academic institutions concerned with children's rights, the results of which are being combined with those of a similar survey of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to form the basis of a much-needed organizational database on children's rights.

C. Organization and management

Staffing

27. As of December 1993, the end of this triennial reporting period, the Centre's basic international staff numbered six: a director (who also has been coordinating the child rights programme); a deputy director (who serves as the coordinator of external relations, as well as head of the project regarding the children and families of minorities); two senior officers concerned with the programmes for economic policies and decentralization/participation, respectively; an information officer (concerned with the publications programme, the library and documentation services); and an administration and finance officer. One authorized international post was left unfilled deliberately, pending the results of additional fund-raising efforts for the Centre.

28. Four Innocenti senior fellows have been named, enabling the Centre to benefit thus far from the skills of experienced development scholars and practitioners from Argentina, Norway, Sri Lanka and Sweden. Members of various

consultative and external advisory groups also have worked closely with the Centre, providing both technical expertise and professional peer review of the Centre's work. The Centre has also benefited from the work in Florence of junior professional officers (JPOs), sponsored by the Governments of France and Italy. Very important contributions have been made by research associates and consultants employed on special service agreements (SSAs). Two senior social statisticians, for example, on leave from their posts in Canada and Hungary, are currently responsible for a major share of the work in Florence on the project for monitoring social policies and indicators in Central and Eastern Europe.

29. The Centre considers its full "resident staff" to be the total of the regular international staff, the local support staff, senior fellows, JPOs and consultants residing in Florence for periods exceeding three months. At the end of the reporting period, there were 21 persons at the Centre, so defined, compared with 24 three years earlier. Much of the research contracted by ICDC, of course, is undertaken by professionals working in the field, largely in developing countries. During the period 1991-1993, an annual average of approximately 170 person-months were contracted on SSAs. In addition, the Centre was able to draw on many person-months of time of other UNICEF colleagues, some of whom were able to spend modest periods of time in Florence writing various sections of ICDC reports or preparing Occasional Papers.

Financing

30. The Government of Italy has financed the basic operation of the Centre from the time of the early programme planning and preparatory work in 1987-1988. Following an initial planning contribution of $400,000, the Government of Italy has thus far approved three triennial allocations for ICDC, amounting to 10.5 billion lire for each three-year phase. Total expenditures from the core Italian contribution during the second three-year phase (1991-1993) were $9.6 million, or an average of $3.2 million per year. In addition, an estimated $650,000 was provided from other sources, including through contributions or cost-sharing arrangements with other parts of UNICEF.

31. As described in more detail in paragraphs 64 and 65 below, the Centre is actively seeking additional donor support to complement the core contribution of the Government of Italy. Supplementary support for specific projects has thus far been provided by the Governments of Canada, Finland and Sweden. The precedent established in the support received from SIDA is especially interesting since it provides funding to ICDC for the research component of a larger project, also involving cooperation with a number of UNICEF-supported programmes concerned with children in especially difficult circumstances in various countries of Latin America. A similar arrangement is under consideration by the Government of Italy and ESARO, involving work on the rehabilitation and educational development of children affected by armed conflicts in that region.

32. Experience during the first six years of activity of the Centre suggests that, in spite of some difficulties caused by the fluctuation and the 1992-1993 decline in the lire/dollar exchange rate, the core contribution of the Government of Italy has been adequate to cover the regular staff and basic operating costs of the Centre. An adjustment during the forthcoming period will

be needed, however, to reflect the combined effects of inflation and devaluation. Continuing contributions from other donors will be very important both to enable ICDC to maintain a diverse and high-quality set of activities and to ensure the truly international character of the Centre.

D. Advisory Committee meetings and the 1993 assessment team

33. The formal agreement between the Government of Italy and UNICEF provides for an Advisory Committee to counsel the Centre on important policy matters relating to cooperation with the Government and the Istituto degli Innocenti. Since the UNICEF members of this Committee are senior managers from New York headquarters and the field, they also serve as an important part of the management review process to help guide the Centre's Director and advise the Executive Director on any management and staffing issues requiring his attention. The Advisory Committee meets once a year; its sixth annual meeting was held in Florence in October 1993 and was chaired by the Deputy Executive Director (Programmes), representing the Executive Director. Participants included the Director-General in charge of international cooperation in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In recognition of the importance of the recent agreement with the Government of Sweden, referred to in paragraphs 14 and 31 above, a representative of SIDA also took part in the meeting. This participation represents a significant step in the process of internationalizing the Advisory Committee of the Centre. Reports on each of the annual meetings of the Committee are available from the Centre.

34. At the time of the fifth meeting of the Advisory Committee, held in November 1992, as part of the process of planning for the next three-year phase (1994-1996), the UNICEF members of the Committee requested that an assessment be undertaken of the Centre's progress, including recommendations for its future programmes. Although the assessment was seen essentially as an internal management review, a decision was taken to include two outside representatives on the assessment team. The team, which undertook the bulk of its work in July 1993, was composed of the Director of the Programme Division and the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Research, from UNICEF, plus the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the Representative of the Ford Foundation for the Philippines, who was formerly UNICEF Regional Director, ESARO. The report of the assessment team, which is available from the Centre, was reviewed carefully by senior UNICEF staff in a special meeting held in New York in September 1993, as well as by the UNICEF members of the Advisory Committee in their regular meeting in October. A number of the conclusions and recommendations of the team are included in the next section of this report.

II. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES, 1994-1996

A. Medium-term planning for the Innocenti Centre: general trends

35. The Centre now has five full years of experience as a research and policy studies centre and, for such a relatively short period in the lives of such institutions, has reached a high level of maturity and productivity. As noted by the assessment team, mentioned in the prior paragraph, "... the Centre has established itself as a high-quality research and training institution from which UNICEF is already deriving handsome benefits". UNICEF has been and remains largely an action-oriented, service delivery and advocacy organization. Research and knowledge generation concerning major problems facing children and women are only recently finding a recognized place on its agenda as the lead United Nations agency for children. As the assessment team concluded, critical policy and programme issues related especially to the long-term sustainability of UNICEF efforts will be more appropriately addressed if the organization succeeds in strengthening its budding "research culture".

36. The Centre's work since 1988, in important though less tangible ways, has helped to create more of a "knowledge-friendly" culture in UNICEF, including greater receptivity to incorporating research results from universities and other outside centres into its policy formulation and programme development strategies. Noting those contributions, the assessment team also concluded that the potential for ICDC to do even more is clearly evident. Fortunately, the Centre, as it seeks to realize this potential to the fullest, has increasingly strengthened its links with other parts of UNICEF, including the Evaluation and Research Office and the regional offices, which are moving in the direction of serving as regional resource and knowledge centres.

37. During the coming three-year phase, the Centre will be exploring a number of ways to develop further this role of helping to strengthen the capacity of UNICEF to approach research and policy analyses with increased professionalism and interaction with outside centres, i.e., to become both a better generator and user of research and knowledge about children and how best to address their problems. Joint ventures with UNICEF regional offices, including collaborations with other United Nations agencies and outside research institutions, offer especially attractive opportunities in this regard. One example, described in more detail elsewhere, is the result of the new programme on the working child and basic education, financed by the Government of Sweden and involving the close collaboration of the Centre, ILO, the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (TACRO) and several UNICEF country offices in that region.

38. The initial years of the Centre's work have demonstrated both the advantages and disadvantages of working closely with UNICEF field offices and their consultants in undertaking field-based research. In the best of cases, field offices have been eager to participate, have helped to identify developing country researchers and have co-financed in-country activities for some of the research. This approach has helped to maintain a policy and programme relevance and "real world" orientation to the studies, which is often lacking in more academically oriented research. Field-based staff have benefited from the opportunity to take part in workshops and conferences in Florence, including time made available for reading, reflection and writing, which is rarely

possible during the busy, often hectic, schedules of programme staff. On the other hand, the heavy operational loads on staff, as well as staff turnover and other sometimes unforeseen events, make it difficult to build research projects largely around the available time of UNICEF colleagues. A number of adjustments are being considered to address this challenge, including the design of more rapid studies, or policy "appraisals", to be completed in no more than six to nine months, and the possibility of inviting more UNICEF staff to Florence on sabbatical arrangements.

39. Another mid-term planning issue addressed during the past year, including by the Centre's Advisory Committee and the assessment team, concerns the criteria for selecting the Centre's main areas of research and other activities. The importance has been recognized of taking into account the Centre's comparative advantages vis-à-vis other parts of UNICEF, especially its distance from operations and other demanding managerial responsibilities. The assessment team proposed that the four main advantages the Centre has in this regard are as follows: (a) work on the "frontiers" of UNICEF activities that may not now be a high priority but are likely to be in 5 or 10 years; (b) initiatives requiring academic freedom, such as controversial topics concerning children's rights; (c) work involving research or reflection in a sabbatical-type setting for otherwise busy professionals; and (d) inputs on currently high-priority areas of attention, such as studies linked to the NPA process. The assessment team concluded that the first three of these criteria represent areas "ideally suited" for ICDC and not easily carried out by normal UNICEF offices. The last item is important to ensure that the more serious, contemplative work of ICDC is not carried out "in a setting oblivious to the pressing priorities occupying the vast majority of UNICEF staff".

40. Also in the spirit of ensuring that the Centre does not become an "ivory tower" setting, the Advisory Committee, the assessment team and senior UNICEF external relations staff have recommended that the Centre strengthen its outreach activities during the next phase. Accordingly, to quote the assessment team's report: "While research constitutes the main function of ICDC, its visibility and credibility as a centre for knowledge about children world-wide require a stronger outreach thrust. This comes about not only through dissemination of multi-language research results, important as these are, but also by high-profile events attracting the participation of well-known outside personalities and with significant media coverage."

41. A challenge for the Centre during the coming years will be to combine creatively these two different types of functions, related to research or capacity-strengthening for research on the one hand and high-profile outreach and dissemination on the other, while also remaining within the agreed limits of its regular staff size and the restriction the Centre faces regarding the use of general resources for its basic operations. The financial aspects of this challenge are dealt with later in the present report. Here, suffice it to say that the Centre, whose senior staff will remain largely researchers or research organizers and managers, will need to develop closer collaborative relationships with other parts of UNICEF, as well as outside expertise, in order to develop more fully this increased emphasis on outreach activities, including with National Committees for UNICEF, and for UNICEF work concerning education for development.

42. In these comments regarding general trends, it also should be noted that the Centre is expected to continue to devote a significant but not majority share of its human and financial resources to (a) policy issues related to children and families living in poverty or suffering other serious deprivation in industrialized countries, East and West, and (b) transnational problems of children and families, including discrimination and intolerance faced by immigrants or minority groups, which transcend conventional boundaries both among countries and between North and South. As described in the next paragraph, one example of this trend is the proposed extension of the work of the Centre on monitoring the transition to market-based economies in Central and Eastern Europe to a broadened effort to strengthen policy analyses and monitoring capacities in developing countries that are shifting away from central planning and command economies.

B. Projected trends and activities in the major programme areas

Economic policies and mobilization of resources for children

43. The most mature of the three main research programmes of the Centre is the one which has been concerned with economic and social policies and the mobilization of resources for the benefit of children and other vulnerable groups. The impressive rate of written output of this programme will continue into the next period, including the likely publication of three books in 1994: Fiscal Policy and the Poor; From Adjustment to Development in Sub-Saharan Africa; and Child Poverty in Industrialized Countries. In addition, the second Regional Monitoring Report on Central and Eastern Europe will be produced by mid-year, and approximately eight Occasional Papers will be published in 1994, bringing the total in the economic policies series to 45. Work during 1994 also will include increased advocacy and dissemination efforts, based especially on the launch of the regional monitoring reports on Central and Eastern Europe and the book on adjustment and development in Africa. The increasingly interactive programme of exchange of information and publications with other research institutes and libraries will be strengthened, including the entry of this programme's bibliographic resources onto computer diskettes. Increased information-sharing with UNICEF staff, National Committees for UNICEF, donor and recipient Governments and NGOs is anticipated during 1994 and beyond. Beginning in 1994, it should be possible, furthermore, to initiate an extension of the work on monitoring in Central and Eastern Europe to the former centrally planned developing economies of Asia. The exceptionally rapid economic growth that has accompanied the transition to "market socialism" in China suggests that that country would be an especially interesting case to include in the next phase. This and other activities are likely to involve the Centre's economic policies group in increased training and technical assistance work.

44. In the latter part of 1994 and during the balance of the next phase, a major focus of this programme is likely to shift towards the theme of poverty alleviation. Despite the new and welcome emphasis of the World Bank on poverty alleviation, the so-called "new consensus" regarding sustainable economic policies (prudent macroeconomic management, open economies, a reduced role for the state, the provision of health, education and other social services, etc.) risks bringing the world back to a situation like that of the 1960s when rapid

and reasonably non-inflationary growth in many countries had a very limited effect on poverty alleviation. If this risk grows, possibly combined with increasing problems in both developed and developing countries relating to employment generation, then it could become more difficult for NPAs and similar social goals, including poverty reduction, to be achieved or sustained. A first paper on those issues, produced by the programme coordinator, deals with macroeconomic policies and long-term development in Latin America. The programme also has participated in a related regional consultation in Santiago, Chile, sponsored by TACRO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

45. Another proposal, closely related to the subject of poverty alleviation, is to focus part of this effort on the formulation of policies and programmes to strengthen components of NPAs that seek to address issues of poverty in a medium- to longer-term context. Specific programme approaches would be reviewed, including "social emergency funds", targeted income subsidies, credit programmes for small landholders and informal sector producers, public works projects and low-cost social security provisions. The research would review and compare likely impacts, costs, efficiency and suitability, as well as propose sustainable packages of measures which might be integrated with other ongoing approaches in different countries where UNICEF is actively involved in policy work of this sort.

Rights of the child

46. Children's rights has been one of the main programme areas of the Centre since its establishment. With the 1989 entry into force and remarkably rapid and widespread ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the work of the Centre in this field has acquired increased urgency. Recognizing the magnitude and complexity of the challenges facing effective implementation of the Convention, the Centre has, as noted in paragraphs 13 and 14 above, developed especially close working relations with other parts of UNICEF, including the Division of Public Affairs' Child Rights and Public Policy Section, both for specific contributions to action and to help strengthen the capacity of UNICEF in its increasing work on children's rights. Enhanced collaboration with other UNICEF offices, including the Planning and Coordination Office, the Programme Division, the Training Section, the Geneva office and several regional offices, are anticipated during the coming phase.

47. One of the main activities to be developed during the period 1994-1996 is a joint project with ILO on the "Working Child and Basic Education". This initiative is aimed both at eliminating progressively the more exploitative and hazardous forms of child labour and at expanding meaningful educational opportunities for at-risk children, especially in the under-14 age-group. It is explicitly recognized in this approach that some children, including in the vulnerable 12-14 year age-group, will need to work, either in order to continue their education or to provide financial support for their families (which in increasing numbers of cases are headed by women). A major policy issue is how to make the educational opportunities for those working children more consistent with their everyday realities, but also more relevant and promising in terms of the enhancement of their options for the future. This initiative has been started with supplementary support from SIDA for activities focused on Latin

America, including studies in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru, plus links to ongoing work with both UNICEF and ILO support in other countries, including Brazil. Several of these studies seek a better understanding of the effects of work on children and their families, including the important issue of the extent of reliance of low-income families on income generated by children.

48. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has indicated its intention to direct considerable attention to the provisions of Article 2 of the Convention requiring States Parties to take positive action to protect children from all forms of discrimination, including race, gender, ethnicity or country of origin. In a world made up of many nation States with often disadvantaged minority or indigenous groups within their borders, and a world plagued by increasing intolerance towards minorities, especially immigrants, the challenges facing the United Nations and other organizations concerned with the human rights of minorities are formidable. Working closely with other groups, including National Committees for UNICEF and key NGOs, and building on the project concerning gypsy children mentioned in paragraph 15 above, the Centre proposes an expanded set of activities relating to the children and families of minorities. The principal activities will be case studies to improve understanding of the causes and consequences of discrimination and intolerance; comparative analyses of legislation and enforcement or implementation mechanisms; and assessments of some of the most significant and effective programmes addressing the needs of the children of minority or indigenous groups. The anticipated output may include social indicators to assess the progress of those children, field guides or handbooks for practitioners and perhaps in co-production with other groups, several video productions addressing critical issues. Initial work will concentrate on children and families of ethnic minorities in Europe and of indigenous populations in Mexico and Central America.

49. An earlier exploration of possible future work at the Centre concerns, in particular, the provisions of Articles 38 and 39 of the Convention with regard to the protection, rehabilitation and social reintegration of child victims of armed conflicts and other forms of violence. The case for the Centre's playing a role in this complex area is related closely to the increasing extent to which UNICEF and its United Nations partners are being drawn into difficult and often controversial actions relating to humanitarian relief during and after violent conflicts in such countries as Haiti, Somalia, the Sudan and the former Yugoslavia. These are especially complicated cases where both governmental structures to provide protection and much-needed social services are extremely weak or non-existent, and also where United Nations capacities are severely overstretched. UNICEF, including ICDC, will be well-advised to proceed with caution in many of those areas. There are, nevertheless, compelling moral and other arguments for UNICEF to do everything possible to strengthen its own capacity and that of key cooperating institutions in an enhanced effort to address the critical problems of children and women affected by these violent events. The Centre's main contribution, in terms of its concern for children's rights, will be to support research, policy analysis and programme strategy formulation, perhaps combined with training support, relating especially to the psycho-social rehabilitation and educational opportunities for children affected by war, violence or displacement. An exploratory set of activities, concerned

especially with the situation of children and women in the Horn of Africa, has been initiated with ESARO.

Decentralization, participation and local governance

50. As a consequence both of the post-cold-war political situation and severe fiscal pressures facing central Governments, major efforts are under way throughout the world, North and South, to decentralize (and often privatize) some of the major roles of modern nation States as they emerged in the nineteenth century. Occasionally, but all too rarely, measures also are being taken to strengthen the financial, political and managerial capacities of local Governments to enable them to cope with the consequences of this dramatic decentralization. In an increasing number of developing countries, this trend also comes at a time, surely linked to sharp increases in literacy, basic education and access to the mass media, of an unprecedented surge in popular demand, including from women, for greater participation in societal decision-making affecting the lives of the low-income majorities. Not surprisingly, intense popular pressures are being felt, especially by districts, municipalities and provinces, to be far more responsive to the rights and expectations of ordinary citizens than has been the case in the past. These trends, still poorly understood in many cases, will have a profound impact on how poverty, and its effects on children and women, needs to be addressed during the coming years. The challenges will be especially great in the large and rapidly growing cities of the developing world. The social complexity, sheer size and phenomenal growth rates of some of these cities exceed those of many nations.

51. The work of the Centre in its urban child programme during the period 1990-1993 illustrated several important cases of promising, if often small-scale, examples of local solutions to some of the problems of children and families living in urban poverty, especially street children and working children. These and other approaches could be strengthened substantially if they had broader support from local authorities and decision makers, typically generated by concerted and sustained action for social mobilization and community empowerment. The implications for the Centre include the need for a broader and more politically sensitive approach to its work in this area, captured by the new title of the programme: "decentralization, participation and local governance".

52. In response to overall priorities in UNICEF, during much of 1994 the programme will concentrate on a series of studies on the decentralization of NPAs. In an increasing number of countries, it has been recognized that decentralization of the NPA process and the preparation of subnational, including municipal-level, programmes of action for children (with integrated strategies, specific targets and commitments for human and financial resource mobilization) is clearly one key to successful and sustained NPA implementation, as well as an essential step in many cases for addressing broader issues of poverty alleviation. This initial phase of the new programme will involve the analysis of six cases of decentralization and the NPA process in Africa, Asia and Latin America - Ecuador being the first case.

53. During a second phase, the Centre will analyse in greater depth several policy issues concerning the provision of social services at the local level. Successful examples, drawn especially from innovative local health and educational initiatives for high-risk children in poor families, will be analysed and disseminated, including through a high-level policy seminar for concerned professionals, local political leaders and senior media representatives.

54. A third phase, resources permitting, will be concerned with issues of local programme sustainability. The specific objective will be to help develop better programming tools for UNICEF-supported actions at the local level. Again, this work will involve a more explicitly political analysis than is common in UNICEF, including of the use and misuse of political authority, the exercise of political and social control, the management of local resources and ways of achieving enhanced community participation and empowerment. Affordability and sustainability will be analysed from both a political and economic vantage point.

Other programmes

55. Although the bulk of the Centre's research activities are included in the three main programme areas described above, some flexibility is maintained for exploration of possible new areas of future involvement. This includes work by the Centre's senior fellows, whose contributions generally relate to the main agenda of ICDC, but also cut across these concerns, leaving room for the development of new ideas. The former UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, for example, has begun an assignment as a senior fellow at the Centre that includes, among other elements, a major review entitled "Contributions to Development Theory and Practice: the UNICEF Experience". There also is increasing concern, reflected in the October 1993 ICDC Advisory Committee meeting, for the need to direct some UNICEF attention in future years to questions of the rapid globalization and westernization of values and lifestyles, including the environmental consequences of the increasing adoption by more and more countries of the questionable consumption patterns of today's industrialized countries, notably by youth and young adults world wide.

56. The Centre also continues to have a number of cooperative undertakings with its host institution in Florence, the Istituto degli Innocenti. In addition to joint activities relating to children in difficult circumstances, including gypsy children and the earlier work on the urban child, the increasingly popular series of historical perspectives on child survival and development will be expanded in the coming phase. The two publications in the series thus far are Historical Perspectives on Breast-feeding and The Decline of Infant Mortality in Europe, 1800-1950: Four National Case Studies. It is hoped that additional historical studies on other topics of concern to both UNICEF and the Istituto can be developed, including basic education and children's rights. Other subjects, such as maternal and child health interventions, nutrition and family planning, also may be included, in close cooperation with other parts of UNICEF and outside partners.

C. Information, documentation and publications

57. The Centre's active publications programme, described in paragraphs 22-23 above, is not expected to undergo major policy changes in the next few years. The mainstream series developed over the past three years will remain basically the same. They are flexible enough to accommodate different needs as they arise, including more "popular" versions of research results. With an eye cast partly on the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, for instance, a "question-and-answer" version of the Innocenti Occasional Paper that appeared in 1992 on women's and children's rights may be produced. Short summaries of books, generally in multi-language versions, will continue to be produced. The Centre also is exploring ways of co-producing a video on thematic issues related to its project on children of minorities, in conjunction with other partners in UNICEF. The Centre will continue to sell its publications, principally through its catalogue, while strengthening its distribution and dissemination procedures. National Committees for UNICEF and NGOs will undoubtedly continue to be major allies in this respect. Policy seminars aimed at the more analytically oriented press will remain one of the mainstays of the Centre's work with the media.

58. The small "core" library of the Centre has evolved to such an extent that its development should level out over the next few years, with the exception of its journal collection which requires strengthening. It will continue to be a reference library which manages "specialist" programme collections. Some expansion of the physical space, however, is needed. When appropriate, bibliographic materials assembled for research projects will be catalogued and included in the Centre's electronic database. The library's on-line search capacities are perhaps unrivalled within UNICEF and are increasingly attracting the attention of other offices and institutions. Given its limited staff, however, it would be unrealistic to expect that the library could serve a more "public" function than it does at present. The library will make a point, none the less, of exploring ways of exchanging its database (on diskette) with other libraries.

59. The Centre will continue to play an active role in supporting the development of a children's rights information network, which has been recognized as a critical requirement by the Committee on the Rights of the Child as well as by key members of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. Working with international and regional partners, the Centre will contribute to the network through (a) the production of an international children's rights thesaurus (and, as an offshoot, a glossary of children's rights terminology for wide dissemination); (b) an organizational database of academic institutions concerned with children's rights; and (c) training in information management for regional partners. What is less certain is whether the Centre will have the capacity and the resources to create a documentation centre as a major resource in children's rights, both in terms of its database and information products. Essentially this would entail the Centre's developing an information base in selected areas of children's rights that goes beyond meeting the immediate needs of its own research programme to become a resource for a much wider range of users, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Such areas could include qualitative information regarding monitoring mechanisms for protecting children's rights; materials on the general principles of the Convention

(aspects of Articles 2, 3, 4 and 12, for instance); and materials on such thematic areas as issues relating to children of minorities, child labour and basic education and psycho-social effects of war on children. Publications could include an annual child rights "handbook" or periodic special "monitoring bulletins" on children's rights. As in many areas of the Centre's potential work, the scope of outreach services such as these will depend on the extent of additional resources which may become available.

D. Training and capacity-building

60. The experience of the Centre in training and capacity-building comes from three main sources: (a) its cooperation with researchers based in universities and other centres, mainly in developing countries but also in Central and Eastern Europe, who have benefited from the support and outside contacts entailed in working with the Centre (a focus which was emphasized during the first three years with the Africa-oriented National Capacity-Building Programme for Child Survival and Development); (b) its Innocenti Global Seminars and other workshops with explicit training and professional exchange objectives; and (c) the participation of its staff in training events and courses organized by others, inside and outside UNICEF. Review of the assessment team's report, mentioned earlier, and broader discussions within UNICEF suggest that a modestly increased emphasis on training, professional exchanges and other capacity-building efforts would be advisable for the next phase.

61. To take advantage of the Centre's principal strength as a research centre, the focus for the future will be primarily on training and professional exchanges that draw on the results of studies conducted or commissioned by UNICEF, including the Centre's own work, rather than on the more standard orientation or preparation of UNICEF staff for specific assignments. In cases where UNICEF has identified the need for increased professionalization of its staff, in an area complementary to the research and other expertise of the Centre, it may be possible, especially if additional resources can be identified for a series of training or professional-updating activities to be held at the Centre, in the manner of small staff training programmes. The proposed programme regarding work with children who are victims of armed conflict, violence and displacement might be one area where this approach of combining research with staff training could be developed.

E. Staffing and financing

62. A summary of the Centre's current staffing pattern is provided in paragraphs 27 to 29 above. During the beginning of the new three-year phase, it will not be necessary to raise with the Government of Italy the issue of increasing the number of authorized internationally recruited staff members, now limited by formal agreement to seven. Part of the reason relates to the fact that the Centre's modest number of senior fellows, other visiting researchers on SSAs or seconded by other institutions and JPOs have not been included within the staff restriction of seven. In addition, one of these seven international positions, which originally was for an executive assistant in the director's office, has been converted to a locally recruited post, leaving just one of the

seven to handle administrative functions in the Centre. With the expanding responsibilities of the Centre noted in this recommendation, it is proposed that the issue of increasing the number of international staff from seven to nine by 1995 or 1996 be raised with the Government of Italy. This increase would enable the Centre to separate and strengthen the functions, currently combined in one position, for publications and information on the one hand, and documentation, database development (including for children's rights) and library services on the other.

63. As was noted in the previous recommendation (E/ICEF/1991/P/L.29, para. 22) and continues to be foreseen for the 1994-1996 phase, the overall size of the staff in Florence, including fellows, JPOs and researchers on SSAs, is expected to be no larger than 30. The increasing use of cooperative arrangements with other parts of UNICEF and other institutions, in fact, has enabled the Centre to maintain a steady and, recently, declining level of regular staff and others actually based in Florence. There is no intention to promote any significant growth of the overall number of staff and researchers at the Centre. Rather, full and increasing advantage will be taken of opportunities to commission studies by researchers based elsewhere and to develop partnerships with others for such activities as training, editing, translation and outreach work not always requiring resident staff in Florence.

64. The three-year commitment of the Government of Italy of 10.5 billion lire for the period 1994-1996 is the same amount approved for the two prior three-year phases. The decline in the lire/dollar exchange rate, however, has reduced the dollar value of this contribution from $9.4 million at the time of the last recommendation to approximately $6.3 million at the January 1994 rate. Some of the Centre's costs, such as post adjustment payments to staff, also have been reduced owing to this exchange rate difference. Nevertheless, with the combined effects of devaluation and local inflation, the real value of the Italian contribution has declined significantly since the beginning of the Centre's activities in late 1988. Accordingly, discussions have been initiated with the Government of Italy regarding an adjustment of the lire amount of its contribution. Since any such adjustment would require action by the Italian Parliament, the Government has indicated its willingness to consider additional project support for specific activities of the Centre while the more lengthy parliamentary process proceeds.

65. The objective of expanding and diversifying the financial base of the Centre continues to be pursued, although it is recognized that this effort will not produce easy results in these times of severe pressures on the development cooperation budgets of a number of donors that might normally be expected to have considerable interest in the type of work being undertaken by the Centre. The first contribution from another official donor came from the Government of Finland, mainly for the support of a visiting expert during 1990-1991 for the national capacity-building programme, then based at the Centre. Since then support in the amount of $421,300 has been provided by the Government of Sweden for work in children's rights, including the cooperation mentioned in paragraph 47 above on the working child and basic education in Latin America. The Government of Canada, furthermore, is considering a contribution to the development of the Centre's international information systems on children's rights.

66. In accordance with Executive Board decision 1987/22 (E/ICEF/1987/11), the Centre will continue during the period 1994-1996, to be guided by the provision that "there will be no general resources expenditures incurred for the upkeep and basic staff of the Centre ...". To ensure clarity in the interpretation of that provision, explicit Executive Board approval is sought to cover situations that are arising regarding the use of general resources, not for the Centre's "upkeep and basic staff", but for the Centre's participation in specific activities approved by the Board and on the basis of requests for particular contributions from the Centre from other parts of UNICEF. Examples include the technical and analytical work in Florence on monitoring social policies and indicators in Central and Eastern Europe, financed partly by the special transitional support approved by the Board for that region, and funding provided by the Training Section for the Innocenti Global Seminars for the staff of UNICEF and its partners, generally held in Florence but sometimes in other locations. The operative principle is that activities undertaken by the Centre for Board-approved purposes on the explicit request of other UNICEF offices can appropriately be financed by general resources allocated to those other offices. None of these funds, however, would be used either for the basic staff of the Centre (i.e., those on regular staff appointments with UNICEF) or for its general operating expenses.

F. Recommendation

67. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the following recommendation:

The Executive Board,

Having reviewed the report on the "International Child Development Centre: progress report and proposed activities for 1994-1996",

1. Authorizes a three-year extension for the Centre for the period 1994-1996, with a total allocation of $9.6 million in supplementary funding, of which 10.5 billion lire (approximately $6.3 million) has been pledged by the Government of Italy, for the Centre's core activities, with the remainder to be sought from other donors for specific activities;

2. Confirms that the maintenance and basic staff of the Centre continue to be fully funded from supplementary funds and that general resources be used by the Centre only for specific Board-approved actions and where other UNICEF offices request the Centre to undertake certain aspects of these actions on their behalf.

Notes

1/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

Annex

ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES (1994-1996) a/

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1994	1995	1996	TOTAL
Programme costs				
Core activities (currently economic policies for children, child rights and decentralization/ participation), research, policy analysis, workshops, publications	1 550	1 725	1 800	5 075
Other programmes, including exploratory activities in new areas, such as values and life-style issues affecting children and youth	250	200	200	650
Senior fellows	150	150	200	500
Training (including Innocenti global seminars)	50	100	100	250
Information, documentation and communications	450	450	500	1 400
Subtotal	2 450	2 625	2 800	7 875
Programme support costs				
General management (salaries and other personnel costs for Director's Office and Administration and Finance Office)	400	400	400	1 200
General operating costs (communication, travel, supplies, maintenance, equipment, general publications, Advisory Committee meetings)	150	175	200	525
Subtotal	550	575	600	1 725
Total	3 000	3 200	3 400	9 600 b/

a/ The three-year contribution from the Government of Italy is 10.5 billion lire, the equivalent of $6.3 million at the January 1994 exchange rate, with the remainder to be sought from other donors.

b/ Less the 1 per cent charge for recovery of UNICEF incremental operating costs for supplementary funding projects.